

TO: The Honorable Spencer Abraham
Secretary of Energy

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DATE: October 18, 2001

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SUBJECT: Yucca Mountain/Nuclear Waste

Dear Sir,

As a 47 year resident of Nevada, I would like to inform you that not all of the residents of my State are as self centered as those whom have protested the U.S. Government's plan to create a nuclear depository at Yucca Mountain.

After having watched and listened to most of the hearings on Yucca Mountain on our local TV Network, I found that the majority of the speakers that were protesting the depository, due to their accents are not Native Nevadans.

Please realize that nearly 75% of the residents of Nevada have lived here in the state for less than twenty-five years. I found this very disgusting that these new residents to my state are so self-serving as to hold the other 280 million Americans hostage in our Country's need to properly storage our nuclear waste.

Sir, most of these individuals either do not understand nor care that the test site was established back in 1948 and since then our government has detonated over 1,000 nuclear devices at the site, I personally felt or witnessed most of them.

As this area is already contaminated by these tests and the fact that it is 100 miles from any large city and is also the U.S. Air Forces major training reserve, it would be very foolish for our government to develop a depository in any other part of the country. That is why the U.S. Congress back in 1987 decided that the Nevada Test Site should be the location for the nation's much needed long term nuclear waste depository.

The test site is Federal land, which means it belongs to all of the citizens of America, be they living in Maine, Florida, Alaska or Nevada. If these new Nevadans are unhappy about this required necessary depository, then they should relocate back to where they came from. Most of them are ignorant to the fact that our state motto is "All for our Country!" a maxim I believe in strongly.

America let the "genie out of the bottle" in developing the atomic bomb. But millions of lives during World War II and 45 years of the Cold War were saved because of our nuclear arsenal.

The purple heart medals that were awarded last week to those military personnel who died or were injured in the attacks on the Pentagon were actually made during World War II in anticipation of a half a million soldiers that would have fallen in an invasion of Japan. Those soldiers' lives were spared due to the atomic bomb. And we as a nation have had over fifty years of prosperity and peace here in the U.S. due to our nuclear umbrella.

If America as the leader of the countries that now possess either nuclear weapons or nuclear power plants cannot create a safe policy for long term storage of our nuclear waste, how can we expect that India, Pakistan or China to follow our lead and develop their own long term depositories?

As manager of casinos throughout the world over the past 20 years (see enclosed). I can tell you that the odds are tens of thousands of times greater of a nuclear accident or sabotage in one of the several hundred temporary storage areas where our nuclear waste now resides. Then if it was all consolidated into one long-term site under military guard. Yucca Mountain is the best-suited location in the country for this site.

All of the waste should only be transported by rail not surface roads, on specially built trains under military guard and routed through northern Nevada to the site. This plan would keep the chances of transportation mishap or sabotage and local political pressures to a minimum.

As for the argument about leakage from the proposed site into any ground water in the area over the next 10,000 years! How arrogant and vain are those who would jeopardize our country in using this as an excuse in slowing down this project. Only two thousand people at best use the ground water in the area. Where as a leak into the ground water at any of the present several hundred temporary sites, could cause harm to millions of our people. These sites can at best safely contain this waste for only several hundred years.

After all the waste is centralized at a permanent storage facility at Yucca Mountain, the chances of a leak would be greatly diminished from what we have now. And if by the grace of God we as a people and a country are still in existence in 10,000 years, I'm quite sure that we would have solved the threat of contamination by any leak prior to that time.

Mr. Secretary, in closing I would request that your department and President Bush, help in lobbying for Nevada. That which most of our local and federal politicians have failed to ask for! That is something of value for our accepting the nation's nuclear waste depository. My request would be to have built adjacent to the depository a new nuclear power plant. A 20,000-mega watt power plant – the largest and most advance power plant in the world.

The difficult part would be demanding the funds for building this plant which should be requested from the other 103 nuclear power plants now in operation. They would bare this cost as payment to Nevada for assuming their waste product. The Federal Government would only be required to pay for a water pipeline from the Colorado River to the test site for this power plant's cooling requirements.

The revenues from a power plant of this size would give the State of Nevada a four-fold increase in the state's annual revenues. It could help subsidize each Nevadan's monthly power bill and dramatically increase America's electrical assets in the southwest.

My dream would be that from the revenues generated by this power plant, the future Governors of Nevada would reinvest 10 percent of each years profits into building a second plant and then a third and a fourth.

An investment plan along this line would allow Nevada to have in operation between 8 and 10 power plants by the end of the 21st century. These plants would supply a majority of the western part of the country's electrical needs. They would allow us to close down four hundred gas, oil and coal burning plants which are presently polluting the air that our children breathe.

Had America kept at the same pace as our sister republic France in building new nuclear plants as they were needed. (France presently has 75% of their electrical needs supplied by nuclear energy versus our 25%.) America could have fulfilled her obligation in conforming with the Kyoto Protocol.

The world's gas and oil reserves will run out within the next 100 years. Our great grandchildren will not have the same level of prosperity as we have enjoyed unless we come out of this "not in my backyard" mindset. Nuclear weapons and power plants are here on earth to stay. We cannot wave a wand and make them disappear. Either we accept this and use them to our advantage or stick our head in the sand and they will become our demise.

Your department did the right thing in listening to the concerns of the local population. Now you must as per your sworn obligation, do what is right for the Country.

Now more than ever we need to fast track the consolidation of our nuclear waste.

God Bless America

Sincerely,



Timothy K. Davis
Major USAR
3055 S. Nellis Blvd # 2044
Las Vegas, Nevada 89121
tkdavis68@hotmail.com

c.c. Governor Kenny Guinn
Senator John Ensign